



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARTHAGE, SPRINGFIELD MEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Carthage, Mo., man and a Springfield, Mo., man were sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing firearms.

* **James Clifford Riddle**, 41, of Carthage, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to two years and 11 months in federal prison without parole.

On April 8, 2005, **Riddle** pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of two firearms. By pleading guilty, **Riddle** admitted that he was in possession of a Marlin .22-caliber rifle and a Mauser 7 mm rifle on Nov. 19, 2002, in Jasper County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Riddle** admitted that when he possessed the firearms he was an unlawful user of marijuana and methamphetamine, Graves said.

Riddle was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 27, 2004, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael O. Hendrickson. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Tracy Eugene Russell**, 38, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to one year and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 23, 2005, **Russell** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Russell** admitted that he was in possession of a Savage Arms Stevens .22-caliber rifle on March 27, 2004, in Douglas County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is

illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Russell** has two 1987 criminal felony convictions for stealing and a third conviction for knowingly burning.

Russell was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 16, 2004, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael O. Hendrickson. It was investigated by the Ava, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow